

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /087 W

----- 071748

R 251745Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1131

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GE, FR, EEWT

SUBJECT : GDR VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SEGARD

1. HEADING A LARGE DELEGATION OF GOVERNEMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, FRECH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER NORBERT SEGARD SPENT THREE BUSY DAYS IN BERLIN JULY 9-11 WITH GDR GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS. THE VISIT, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE INVITATION OF GDR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SOELLE, PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK FOR INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FRANCH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR GDR CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY IN CHEMICAL PRODUCTION, METALLURGY, AND MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION.

2. ACCORDING TO A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT, SEGARD SIGNED A FIVE-YEAR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT CHARACTERIZED AS A SHARPENING OF THE LONG-TERM BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION REACHED IN JULY
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1973, SETTING OUT SPECIFIIC AREAS AND PROJECTS FOR

INTENSIFIED COOPERATION IN THE NEAR TERM.

3. DURING THE VISIT COMMERICAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BETWEEN GDR FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND FRECH FIRMS CREUZOT LOIRA ENTERPRISES, RHONE-POULENC, PONT-A-MOUSSON/ST. GOBAIN, AND VALLOUREC. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT TALKS WENT ON BETWEEN FRENCH AND GDR AUTO INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE SHOPPING FOR FOREIGN DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR A NEW GDR PASSENGER CAR. BESIDES BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION, GDR REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS JOINT PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. THE FRECH AMBASSADOR HERE HAS REMARKED TO US THAT ANY INCREASE IN TRADE WITH THE GDR WOULD PERFORCE BE MODEST. DE CHALVRON SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT VENTURE IN A STEEL PLANT IN SYRIA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. HE SAID THAT SEGARD HAD BEEN COURTEOUSLY AND PROPERLY RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SINDERMANN, BUT THAT FONMIN FISCHER HAD SPENT NEARLY THE ENTIRE HOUR OF SEGARD'S CALL CRITICIZING FRANCE FOR CATERING TO "THIRD STATES" IN ITS POSITION ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION IN CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS. A RATHER IRRITATED SEGARD TOLD FISCHER SEVERAL TIMES DURING THIS EXCHANGE THAT CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT WITHIN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0762
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750719/aaaaaqno.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : GDR VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SEGARD
TAGS: EEW, GC, FR, (SEGARD, NORBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006